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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 002072

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/08/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOFS](#) [MASS](#) [MARR](#) [EWWT](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: NAVCENT DISCUSSES SUEZ CANAL TRANSIT PROCEDURES
WITH MOD

Classified By: Ambassador Margaret Scobey per 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Key Points -- During a September 29 meeting, NAVCENT Deputy Commander Rear Admiral Cropper and Assistant Minister of Defense Major General al-Assar commended U.S.-Egypt cooperation following the Global Patriot incident.
2. (C) During a September 29 meeting with Rear Admiral Cropper, al-Assar commended U.S.-Egypt cooperation following the Global Patriot incident.
3. (C) Al-Assar asserted that U.S. Naval vessels do not have the right to fire weapons while being escorted by the Egyptian Navy, so the standard of cooperation was key.
4. (C) Rear Admiral Cropper expressed "deep regret" for the loss of life during the Global Patriot incident. He thanked Egypt for its efforts.
5. (C) Rear Admiral Cropper said that together, Egypt and the U.S. implemented robust force protection measures for all U.S. naval ships, including the USS Zumwalt.
6. (C) While cooperation was key, Rear Admiral Cropper clearly stated that ship commanders were obligated to exercise self-defense if necessary.
7. (C) Following a U.S. presentation on existing Suez Canal transit procedures, al-Assar said the meeting had been "useful and beneficial" and cleared this message.
8. (U) NAVCENT cleared this message. Scobey